REMARKS

This paper is being provided in response to the Office Action mailed May 21, 2004, for the above-referenced application. In this response, Applicants have amended claims 1-10 to clarify that which Applicants consider to be the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the originally-filed specification.

The Office Action indicates that the non-English references cited in an Information Disclosure Statement submitted by Applicant have not been considered. Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant fulfilled the requirements of MPEP 609 III A(3) for a concise explanation of relevance of non-English language references by submitting, with the references, an English translation of the foreign search report concerning the degree of relevance of the references with respect to references JP 52-087302 and JP 9-200239. Specifically, MPEP 609 III A(3) states:

> Where the information listed is not in the English language in the English language, but was cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, the requirement for a concise explanation of the relevance can be satisfied by submitting an English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicant has included herewith translated Abstracts of the references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial the references on the submitted PTO Forms 1449 as having been considered and return the initialed forms to Applicant with the next Office communication.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-7 and 9-14. Applicant has rewritten claims 2 and 9 into independent form to incorporate the

features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-7 and 10-14 depend thereon. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for allowance.

The rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,911,056 to Faget et al. (hereinafter "Faget") is hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims contained herein.

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, recites a data transferring apparatus. The apparatus includes a ring bus which circularly transfers data by holding in a slot to one direction. A plurality of nodes are connected to the ring bus. Each of the plurality of nodes includes a detector and a controller. The detector detects whether or not data destined for a self-node is held in a slot arrived to another node connected to an upstream side of the self-node. The controller captures the data destined for the self-node from the slot when the detector detects presence of the data destined for the self-node and the slot arrives to the self-node. Further, the controller controls validation of the slot arrived at the self-node in a same cycle as capturing the data destined for the self-node.

Independent claim 8, as amended herein, recites a data transferring method. The method includes providing a plurality of nodes connected to a ring bus which circularly transfers data by holding in a slot to one direction. It is detected whether or nor data destined for a self-node is held in a slot arrived to another node connected to an upstream side of the self-node. The data destined for the self node is captured from the slot when presence of the data destined for the self-node is detected in the detecting step and the slot arrives to the self-node. Further, the

method. includes controlling validation of the slot arrived at the self-node in a same cycle as capturing the data destined for the self-node.

The Faget reference discloses a high speed interconnect bus. The Office refers to Figure 4 of Faget as disclosing ring bus segments 250, 252, and 254 including bus lines that are dedicated to unidirectional transfer of information between interface circuits 206, 226 and controlled by core processors 204, 224. (See col. 8, lines 24-55 and col. 9, line 65-col. 10, line 13 of Faget.)

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 8, as amended herein, recite an apparatus and method of data transfer that includes control of the validation of the slot arrived at the self-node in a same cycle as capturing the data destined for the self-node. (See, for example, page 15, line 5 to page 16, line 6 and Figure 6 of the present application.) Applicant has found that when using an apparatus and method according to the present claimed invention, because unnecessary data packets do not occupy the ring bus, the usage efficiency of the ring bus is raised. As a result, the time necessary for data transfer is reduced. (See, for example, page 17, line 20 to page 18, line 8 of the present application.)

Applicant respectfully submits that Faget does not teach or fairly suggest at least the above-noted features as claimed by Applicant. Faget does not arguably disclose control of a validation of a slot arrived at the self-node in a same cycle as capturing data destined for the self-node, as is claimed by Applicant. For example, with respect to the transfer of information between input and output registers of processing elements 226 and 246, Faget discloses retrieval

of information in a first clock cycle and forwarding of information in a second clock cycle that results in a one clock cycle latency incurred at the processing elements and does not arguably disclose a validation control procedure as recited by Applicant that improves usage efficiency. (See, for example, col. 10, line 61 to col. 11, line 10 of Faget.) Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 617-248-4038.

Respectfully submitted,
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